

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) Switching device [(40)] intended for assembly on an electric printed circuit mounting plate [(16)] comprising contacts [(8, 10)] to be electrically connected when a switching operation is performed, the device including a switch component [(4)] associated with an actuator [(2)], allowing the electrical connection to be established between said contacts when the switch component[(it)] is deflected under pressure transmitted by the actuator, the device being characterised in that the device[(it)] additionally includes a base plate [(46)] equipped with holding means [(50a)] for holding the switch component [(4)] prior to the assembly of the device on the mounting plate [(16)], the switch component being disengaged from these holding means when the device is assembled on the mounting plate.
2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the switch component [(4)] is supported only by the mounting plate [(16)] when the device is assembled on the mounting plate[(it)], the base plate [(46)] then providing only a guidance function for the switch component.
3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the switch component [(4)] disengages itself naturally from the holding means [(50a)] under the effect of a push exerted on said switch component by the mounting plate [(16)] when the device is assembled on the mounting plate[(it)].
4. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the switch component [(4)] is assembled floating relative to the base plate [(46)] between an initial position in which the switch component is stopped against the holding means [(50a)] and a second position in which the switch component[(it)] is disengaged from the holding means, the[(is)] second position being adopted automatically through the installation of the device on the mounting plate [(16)].

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the switch component $[(4)]$ includes at least one appendage $[(48)]$ the free end of which forms a hook $[(48a)]$, the holding means having a stop $[(50a)]$ for the hook that prevents the switch component from being withdrawn via the surface of the base plate (16) turned towards the mounting plate $[(16)]$.
6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that the at least one appendage is a resilient segment $[(48)]$ starting from one corner $[(4a)]$ of the switch component (4) and the end of which is supported against an internal bearing surface $[(50b)]$ of the base plate $[(46)]$, allowing the switch component to be guided relative to the base plate.
7. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the base plate $[(46)]$ forms a frame around the switch component $[(4)]$, and in that a ~~the~~ peripheral wall of the frame has a contact edge $[(46c)]$ intended to be supported against the mounting plate $[(16)]$ when the device is assembled on it.
8. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 7, characterised in that the contact edge $[(46c)]$ constitutes a seal protecting an ~~the~~ internal part $[(6)]$.
9. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 7, characterised in that the peripheral wall has an edge $[(46b)]$, opposite the contact edge (46c), intended to receive a base portion $[(2a)]$ of the actuator $[(2)]$.
10. (Currently Amended) Device according to 1, characterised in that the actuator $[(2)]$ is a revolution part.
11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that device ~~it~~ additionally includes a connection part $[(42)]$ intended ~~on the one hand~~ to hold the actuator $[(2)]$ on the base plate $[(46)]$ and ~~on the other hand~~ to ensure the assembly of the device on the mounting plate $[(16)]$.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterised in that the connection part ~~[[(42)]]~~ anchors the device to the mounting plate ~~[[(16)]]~~ via gripping means ~~[[(52)]]~~ that anchor the device to the mounting plate without welding.
13. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 12, characterised in that the gripping means ~~[[(52)]]~~ form snap-on means intended to pass through at least one hole ~~[[(44)]]~~ in the mounting plate ~~[[(16)]]~~ and to be anchored against a~~[[its]]~~ surface opposite that on which the device is assembled.
14. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterised in that the connection part ~~[[(42)]]~~ holds a base portion ~~[[(2a)]]~~ of the actuator ~~[[(2)]]~~ in a sandwich against the base plate~~[[(46)]]~~.
15. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterised in that the connection part ~~[[(42)]]~~ includes at least one pin ~~[[(23)]]~~ an~~[[the]]~~ end of which forms a means ~~[[(54)]]~~ for anchoring to the mounting plate~~[[(16)]]~~, and one part of which incorporates fastening means ~~[[(32a)]]~~ intended to engage with fastening means ~~[[(53)]]~~ connected to the base plate~~[[(46)]]~~.
16. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the base plate ~~[[(46)]]~~ is made in a single piece of flexible plastic material or elastomer.
17. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that said switch component ~~[[(4)]]~~ is presented in a~~[[the]]~~ form of a dome, ~~particularly a blister dome, preferably or metal or metallized allowing the electrical connection to be provided.~~
18. (Currently Amended) Process for manufacturing a switching device~~[[(40)]]~~, characterised in that at least one ~~of the~~ part~~[[s]]~~ among the group including: a~~[[the]]~~ connection component~~[[(42)]]~~, a~~[[the]]~~ switch component~~[[(4)]]~~, and a~~[[the]]~~ base plate~~[[(46)]]~~, is manufactured on a bearing strip, and in that the at least one~~[[said]]~~ part is connected to the bearing strip during assembly of the switching device, said bearing strip being also used as a means for packaging the at least one part between ~~[[its]]~~ manufacture of the at least one part and ~~[[the]]~~ assembly of the device.

19. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 18, characterised in that each of the parts (42, 2, 4, 46) of said group is made on a respective bearing strip.
20. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 18, characterised in that the bearing strip ~~of one of the parts of said group~~ is additionally used for ~~[[the]]~~packaging ~~[[of]]~~the device ~~[[(40)]]~~once the device~~[[it]]~~ is assembled.
21. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 20, characterised in that the bearing strip ~~being used to package the assembled device (40)~~ is used ~~to supply a tool for assembling the device on a~~~~[[its]]~~ mounting plate~~[[(16)]]~~, wherein the bearing strip is~~this tool being~~ of ~~a~~~~[[the]]~~ strip feed type.
22. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 18, implementing a connection part (42) ~~according to claim 15~~including at least one pin, an end of which forms a means for anchoring to the mounting plate, and one part of which incorporates fastening means intended to engage with fastening means connected to the base plate, characterised in that the process~~[[it]]~~ includes the steps of: orientating ~~[[the]]~~pins ~~[[(23)]]~~flared relative to ~~a~~~~[[the]]~~ central axis ~~[[(A)]]~~of the connection part, the flare being in ~~a~~~~[[the]]~~ direction of separation from the central~~[[this]]~~ axis towards ~~a~~~~[[their]]~~ free end, joining the connection part to the base plate (46), ~~whether or not the base plate~~~~[[it]]~~ is fitted with the switch component ~~[[(4)]]~~and connecting the whole by ~~orientating the branches parallel to the central axis~~~~[[(A)]]~~, so as to bring the fastening means ~~[[(23a)]]~~into their respective housing ~~[[(53)]]~~of the base plate.
23. (New) Device according to claim 17, characterised in that the dome is a blister dome.
24. (New) Device according to claim 17, characterised in that the switch component is metal.
25. (New) Device according to claim 17, characterised in that the switch component is metallized.